

1

2

3 2011 ILLINOIS STATE SENATE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

4

PUBLIC HEARING

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

May 21st, 2011
Michael A. Bilandic Building
160 North LaSalle Street
Room C-600
Chicago, Illinois

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

Sullivan Reporting Company, by
Amy M. Spee, CSR

24

License No. 084-004559

1 PRESENT:

2 SENATOR KWAME RAOUL, Chairperson

3 SENATOR JACQUELINE Y. COLLINS, Member

4 SENATOR DON HARMON, Member

5 SENATOR MATTIE HUNTER, Member

6 SENATOR KIMBERLY A. LIGHTFORD, Member

7 SENATOR EDWARD D. MALONEY, Member

8 SENATOR IRIS Y. MARTINEZ, Member

9 SENATOR DALE A. RIGHTER, Minority Spokesperson

10 SENATOR SHANE CULTRA, Member

11 SENATOR DAN DUFFY, Member

12 SENATOR MATT MURPHY, Member

13 SENATOR PAMELA J. ALTHOFF, Member

14 SENATOR JOHN G. MULROE, Member

15 SENATOR M. MAGGIE CROTTY, Member

16 SENATOR SUSAN GARRETT, Member

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24

I N D E X

Name

Page

Juan Rangel	14
Ricardo Munoz	17
Hector Rico	19
Francisco Cisneros	19
Jose Artemio Arreola	20
Rogelio Iniguez	23
Josina Morita	24
Valerie Leonard	28
Sharda J. Thapa	32
Netza Roldan	35
Paul Naranjo	37
Jose Alonso	37
Bruce Crosby	47
Richard Greenfield	50
Dr. Mujahid Ghazi	51
C.W. Chan	54
Kyle Hillman	57
Sylvia Puente	57
Carl Lambrecht	68
James Pauly	69
Rev. Alexander E. Sharp	71
Whitney Woodward	75
Mary Schaafsma	78

1 CHAIRPERSON RAOUL: Calling the meeting to
2 order. State the roll call.
3 THE CLERK: Senator Murphy.
4 MEMBER MURPHY: Here.
5 THE CLERK: Senator Althoff.
6 MEMBER ALTHOFF: Here.
7 THE CLERK: Senator Duffy.
8 MEMBER DUFFY: Here.
9 THE CLERK: Senator Dillard.
10 (No response.)
11 THE CLERK: Senator Cultra.
12 MEMBER CULTRA: Present.
13 THE CLERK: Senator Righter.
14 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: Here.
15 THE CLERK: Senator Mulroe.
16 MEMBER MULROE: Here.
17 THE CLERK: Senator Crotty.
18 MEMBER CROTTY: Here.
19 THE CLERK: Senator Martinez.
20 MEMBER MARTINEZ: Here.
21 THE CLERK: Senator Maloney.
22 MEMBER MALONEY: Here.
23 THE CLERK: Senator Lightford.
24 MEMBER LIGHTFORD: Here.

1 THE CLERK: Senator E. Jones.
2 (No response.)
3 THE CLERK: Senator Hunter.
4 MEMBER HUNTER: Here.
5 THE CLERK: Senator Harmon.
6 MEMBER HARMON: Here.
7 THE CLERK: Senator J. Collins.
8 (No response.)
9 THE CLERK: Senator Garrett.
10 (No response.)
11 THE CLERK: Senator Raoul.
12 CHAIRPERSON RAOUL: Here.
13 With 14 members present, I'm calling
14 the meeting into order.
15 First off, I'd like to thank all of
16 the members for being here on a Saturday afternoon.
17 All the members on both sides have traveled up from
18 Springfield to be here.
19 I would secondly like to thank all the
20 members of the public, including advocacy groups that
21 we've heard from throughout the course of the last
22 couple of years, including the media.
23 It certainly has been a long journey
24 to get to this point today. When Senate President

1 John Cullerton assumed the presidency in 2009, one of
2 his first acts was to establish the Senate
3 Redistricting Committee as a standing committee in
4 the Illinois Senate. Since that time, this Committee
5 has spent a lot of time and driven even more miles
6 soliciting input from all over the state.

7 In July of 2009, we convened our first
8 hearing at the Thompson Center in Chicago. It was
9 clear then that this panel would lead the discussion
10 on reforming the redistricting process in Illinois.
11 Both parties made it abundantly clear that Illinois
12 could no longer redistrict by lottery. Each party
13 also agreed that diversity and the ability to provide
14 public input must be the pillars of how we conducted
15 our redistricting process -- and it has been.

16 Allow me to quickly walk back through
17 the work we've done this year alone. When the census
18 data was released earlier this year, the public had
19 immediate access to that data to draw their own maps
20 so that they could participate in the process. We
21 put that on our redistricting Web site. I believe it
22 was our first hearing here where we heard testimony
23 from somebody requesting that we have access to
24 technology -- provide access to technology for the

1 public to be able to draw maps. And we responded to
2 that providing access to terminals to allow them to
3 draw -- to draw maps utilizing the census data and
4 the work stations both here and in Springfield.

5 In multiple hearings, we heard from
6 the public asking us -- I believe, the statement is,
7 We've shown you your map, now you show you ours --
8 show you -- show you -- show us yours and give us
9 time to look -- give us time to look at it. And so
10 we are here to show you our map.

11 In yet another hearing, it was
12 requested that we provide a narrative. Well, in the
13 coming days -- probably tomorrow -- we will be filing
14 a resolution with the narrative displaying all of the
15 districts.

16 Today's hearing is the first of three
17 in conjunction with the House of Representatives
18 which will allow the public to weigh in on this
19 proposal.

20 Now, allow me to describe this
21 redistricting proposal before the public is allowed
22 to comment.

23 In establishing boundaries for
24 Illinois Legislative and Representative Districts in

1 this proposal, the following redistricting principles
2 were taken into account:

3 Each of the districts contained in the
4 General Assembly Redistricting Act of 2011 was drawn
5 to be substantially equal in population, so that as
6 nearly as practicable, the total population deviation
7 between districts is zero; each of the districts
8 contained in the General Assembly Redistricting Act
9 of 2011 was drawn to be consistent with the United
10 States Constitution; each of the districts contained
11 in the General Assembly Redistricting Act of 2011 was
12 drawn to be consistent with the federal Voting Rights
13 Act where applicable; each of the districts contained
14 in the General Assembly Redistricting Act of 2011 was
15 drawn to be compact and contiguous, as required by
16 the Illinois Constitution; each of the districts
17 contained in the General Assembly Redistricting Act
18 of 2011 was drawn to be consistent with the Illinois
19 Voting Rights Act of 2011, where applicable; each of
20 the districts contained in the General Assembly
21 Redistricting Act of 2011 was drawn taking into
22 account the partisan composition of the district and
23 of the plan itself.

24 Additionally, each of the districts

1 contained in the General Assembly Redistricting Act
2 of 2011 was drawn to reflect the balance of the
3 following redistricting principles: the preservation
4 of the core or boundaries of the existing districts;
5 the preservation of communities of interest; respect
6 for county, township, municipal, ward, and other
7 political subdivision boundaries; the maintenance of
8 incumbent-constituent relationships and tracking of
9 population migration; proposals or other input
10 submitted by members of the public and stakeholder
11 groups; public hearing testimony; other incumbent
12 requests; respect for geographic features and natural
13 or logical boundaries; and other redistricting
14 principles recognized by state and federal court
15 decisions.

16 Now, let me state this and let me
17 state this clearly for the interest of everybody's
18 time here today -- I believe the first time we were
19 here, we spent a good 4 and a half hours in this
20 room -- we are here strictly to get input from the
21 public as promised. We are here strictly to get
22 input from the public. We will take all comments and
23 suggestions under advisement in the coming days. We
24 are not here to get into lengthy exchanges, but we

1 are here to hear from you and get input from you.

2 Senator Harmon, do you seek to be
3 recognized.

4 MEMBER HARMON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Thank you,
5 Mr. Chairman.

6 I move that this hearing be
7 transcribed by a court reporter so that the Committee
8 can have a full transcript of this hearing, which the
9 Committee can approve at a future hearing, once
10 members and staff have had the time to review the
11 transcript and make any needed changes.

12 CHAIRPERSON RAOUL: It's been moved that the
13 court reporter transcribe seconded by Senator
14 Martinez.

15 Leave being granted, the motion
16 carries.

17 Senator Crotty, do you seek to be
18 recognized.

19 MEMBER CROTTY: Thank you.

20 Mr. Chairman, I move that the
21 Committee allow any media present to take still
22 photos and then record the proceedings.

23 CHAIRPERSON RAOUL: We move that the media be
24 allowed to take still photos and record the

1 proceedings seconded by Senator Lightford.

2 Is there leave?

3 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: Yes.

4 CHAIRPERSON RAOUL: Leave being granted, the
5 media has leave to take photos and record
6 proceedings.

7 Senator Hunter, do you seek to be
8 recognized.

9 MEMBER HUNTER: Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.

10 In keeping with our past practice, I
11 move that the Committee allow members of the public
12 to take photos of the proceedings so long as they do
13 not interrupt the proceedings.

14 CHAIRPERSON RAOUL: Senator Hunter moves to
15 allow the public to take photos seconded by Senator
16 Mulroe.

17 Is there leave?

18 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: Yes.

19 CHAIRPERSON RAOUL: Leave being granted, the
20 public is allowed to take photos.

21 Senator Maloney, do you seek to be
22 recognized.

23 MEMBER MALONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

24 I move that the Committee adopt the

1 transcripts from the following hearings, the April
2 16th hearing in Peoria; the April 16th hearing in
3 Kankakee; the April 19th hearing in Cicero; the
4 April 21st hearing in Carbondale; the April 21st
5 hearing in Elmhurst; the April 26th hearing in
6 Yorkville; and the April 28th hearing in Macomb; the
7 April 28th hearing in University Park; the April 30th
8 hearing in Chicago; the April 30th hearing in
9 Streamwood; and the May 2nd hearing in Alton.

10 CHAIRPERSON RAOUL: It's been moved that those
11 transcripts will be accepted into the record,
12 seconded by Senator Martinez.

13 Is there leave?

14 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: Mr. Chairman,
15 if I might, I'd like to have in front of us what it
16 is exactly we're moving to.

17 I think we had this issue before in
18 Cicero as well. We'd like to see that before we --

19 CHAIRPERSON RAOUL: All right. We'll table the
20 motion.

21 With that, I'd like to read all the --
22 I'm going to read all witness slips into the record.
23 If there are members of the public who wish to
24 testify who has -- who have not filled out a witness

1 slip, I advise them to do so.

2 We have Sylvia Puente, Latino Policy
3 Forum; Netza Roldan, Binational Institute of Human
4 Development; Valerie Leonard, Lawndale Alliance;
5 Sharda Thapa, Asian American Institute; Jose Artemio
6 Arreola, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee
7 Rights; C.W. Chan, Coalition for a Better
8 Chinese-American Community; Rogelio Iniguez, LULAC;
9 Josina Morita, United Congress of Community and
10 Religious Organizations; Kyle Hillman; James Pauly,
11 Libertarian Party of Chicago; Mary Schaafsma, League
12 of Woman Voters of Illinois; Reverend Alexander
13 Sharp, CHANGE Illinois! and Protestants for the
14 Common Good; Ricardo Munoz, Alderman of the 22nd
15 Ward; Hector Rico, LOS; Richard Greenfield; Juan
16 Rangel, UNO; Bruce Crosby, Committee to Preserve
17 Voting Rights; Sam Sandoval; Whitney Woodward,
18 Illinois Campaign for Political Reform; Carl
19 Lambrecht; Paul Naranjo, Pilsen Wellness Center;
20 Francisco Cisneros, Pilsen Wellness Center; Dr. Leon
21 Finney, African-American for Legislative
22 Redistricting; Dr. Ghazi, South Asian Community
23 Alliance Rogers Park; Jose Alonso, Committee for a
24 Unified Back of the Yards.

1 Juan Rangel; Rick Munoz; Artemio
2 Arreola; Rogelio Iniguez; Francisco Cisneros.
3 Rangel.

4 JUAN RANGEL: Thank you very much, Members of
5 the Committee, and thank you, Mr. Chairman, for
6 keeping your commitment to allow community
7 feedback --

8 CHAIRPERSON RAOUL: Is your microphone on?

9 JUAN RANGEL: I'm new at this.
10 Thank you, Members of the Committee,
11 and thank you, Mr. Chairman, for keeping your
12 commitment to allow community feedback to the extent
13 one it has been presented.

14 My name is Juan Rangel, CEO of UNO,
15 Latino Coalition for Fair Redistricting.

16 Every ten years the state legislature
17 is presented with a crucial and daunting task for
18 revising the structural representation of the
19 citizens of Illinois. Given the core constitutional
20 principles involved in redistricting and the effect
21 they can have on minority groups' power and voice,
22 the magnitude of this undertaking cannot be
23 underestimated.

24 Furthermore, immense interest from a

1 variety of groups demands delicate handling of the
2 interest and concerns involved. At the end, the new
3 map must reflect the shifts in population, the
4 constitutional principles and the best interests of
5 all of the citizens of Illinois.

6 I am here to express the Latino
7 Coalition for Fair Redistricting support of the map
8 proposed by the Illinois Senate. We stand by our
9 consistent position that we need to protect the
10 Latino community's means over the past two decades
11 and also expand our representation based on our
12 population growth.

13 The proposed map does just that. It
14 increases the number of Latino districts to reflect
15 the substantial increase in Latino -- in Illinois'
16 Latino population without losing the current number
17 of Latino districts. The proposed map also respects
18 communities of interest, such as Humboldt Park,
19 Little Village, Pilsen and Chinatown.

20 Additionally, we support the proposed
21 maps because they adhere to the core constitutional
22 principles of the Federal Voting Rights Act and the
23 new Illinois Voting Rights Act of 2011.

24 Furthermore, we support the proposed

1 map because it also adequately protects other
2 minority group's interests. While we are concerned
3 with the vast and the interest of the Latino
4 community, we recognize and accept that the Illinois
5 Legislature must strike a balance with other minority
6 groups' interests, particularly the African-American
7 community.

8 It may be possible to draw a map of
9 even more Latino districts; however, we believe
10 that -- we believe that the proposed map fairly
11 balances changes in population and the stake other
12 communities have in the Illinois Legislature.

13 Earlier in the week, a disparate group
14 of Latino coalitions, including the Latino Policy
15 Forum, the Latino Agenda, the Illinois Coalition for
16 Immigrant and Refugee Rights Neighborhood
17 Organization came together in agreement under a set
18 of guiding principles on redistricting. You have a
19 copy of that agreement with you; but the guidance
20 principles are as follows: Protect the rights of
21 Latino communities by creating Latino districts
22 commensurate with the growth of the Latino population
23 in the State of Illinois; to ensure that districts
24 representing other racial and ethnic minority

1 communities are drawn to maintain those communities
2 intact; and, three, to preserve African-American
3 districts.

4 It is UNO's belief that these maps
5 here today are consistent with these principles.

6 Again, revising the current district
7 boundaries is a tremendous assignment with many
8 moving parts. The Latino Coalition for Fair
9 Redistricting supports the proposed map based on its
10 improved increase in Latino representation adherent
11 to constitutional boundaries and balances of diverse
12 interests involved.

13 And to turn to the public record,
14 there are a number of letters that have been
15 submitted to you all from some organizations that are
16 supporting this map as well. And there will be
17 others that will come our way in the next few days
18 that we'll submit to you as well.

19 So we'll now thank you for your time,
20 if there are any questions.

21 CHAIRPERSON RAOUL: Munoz.

22 RICARDO MUNOZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank
23 you to the Committee for hosting this hearing in
24 Illinois and Chicago. You're relieving us of the

1 requirement to have to go down to Springfield. I
2 believe we'll probably be down there on Tuesday also,
3 but I'm here also to join in support of this map and,
4 specifically, as it deals with the Southwest Side in
5 terms of its inclusion of Little Village, which is
6 the neighborhood that I represent.

7 I'm the alderman of the 22nd Ward and
8 have been in the Ward since 1979. I've seen the
9 community of Little Village divided up in a number of
10 ways. In the 1980s, we were represented by four
11 Senators and five House members. In the 1990s, it
12 was two Senators and four House members. The Little
13 Village was represented in 2000 by three Senators and
14 four House members. And with this map, the community
15 of Little Village will be represented by one Senator
16 and one House member, which is an effort that we've
17 undertaken in order to be able to have an advocacy
18 down in Springfield and also to talk a little bit
19 about and support this map as it relates to
20 protecting the -- or preserving the protected classes
21 of Illinois Rights Act and making sure that there's
22 no repercussion in the African-American communities
23 and Latino communities as we've seen the census
24 demonstrated.

1 So on behalf of the residents of the
2 22nd Ward and Little Village, we lend our support
3 towards this map.

4 Thank you.

5 CHAIRPERSON RAOUL: Hector Rico.

6 HECTOR RICO: My name is Hector Rico. I'm the
7 executive director of the Latino Organization of the
8 Southwest. We're located in the heart of the
9 Southwest Side communities, particularly in the
10 Chicago community.

11 And I'm here on behalf of my Board of
12 Directors, my committee of leaders and also on behalf
13 of all the communities we provide services to. And
14 I'm here to help them, both directors and my
15 leadership, my families to provide support for this
16 particular map as we have -- we believe that by
17 representation of this particular map that we will
18 have a more proactive community. Because I am in a
19 proactive Latino community.

20 Thank you very much.

21 CHAIRPERSON RAOUL: Let's go to your --
22 identify yourself.

23 FRANCISCO CISNEROS: I'm Francisco Cisneros.
24 I'm the president of Pilsen Wellness Center. We have

1 our sites and Pilsen and the Little Village -- and
2 Cicero and Pilsen and the Little Village will have
3 representation.

4 So we have to open up going west.
5 People always move, but working with the poll. So
6 education is fine down in Little Village. What I
7 like about this map is the better representation,
8 especially for Latinos.

9 So I'm here to support the new mapping
10 and -- on behalf of the transition and our
11 conversations with the Board of Directors.

12 CHAIRPERSON RAOUL: Artemio.

13 JOSE ARTEMIO ARREOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
14 Thank you all the members of the Redistricting
15 Committee located in Chicago. And we will be coming
16 in next time with Alderman Munoz who were asking for
17 support.

18 My name is Jose Artemio Arreola for
19 the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee
20 Rights.

21 The Illinois Coalition for Immigrant
22 and Refugee Rights commends the Illinois Senate and
23 Illinois House Redistricting Committees for their
24 work on the proposed new legislative map. ICIRR

1 support the proposed map as an important step forward
2 for the Voting Rights Act representation of the
3 Latino, Asian and Arab/Muslim communities of
4 Illinois. We will ask for amendments to the proposed
5 map to make adjustments in several areas.

6 The proposed map largely delivers on
7 ICIRR's request that Latino, Asian and the Middle
8 Eastern communities be fairly represented in
9 Illinois. Specifically, the proposed map: protects
10 Latinos and Latin-influenced districts on the North
11 Side and adds one Latino Senate and House District in
12 the Southwest Side/Cicero area; creates a strong
13 Latino and Latino influence districts in Waukegan,
14 Franklin Park, Aurora and Elgin area; unites
15 important communities of interest like Chinatown,
16 Little Village in single districts.

17 The map creates a Latino minority
18 district that will probably be represented initially
19 by the powerful House Speaker Mike Madigan. And
20 ICIRR believes that having such powerful political
21 representation will greatly benefit Latino and
22 immigrant interests in Illinois.

23 There are several areas where ICIRR
24 asks for amendments to the proposal. These include:

1 adjusting and North Side/Northwestern suburb district
2 boundaries and suburbans -- and Southwest suburban
3 district boundaries to better ensure Asian and Middle
4 Eastern communities of interest and -- are united,
5 and increase the Latino population percentages in the
6 proposed Zalewski and Madigan districts.

7 We will let lawyers decide if the
8 current proposal boundaries meet the legal
9 requirements of the Voting Rights Act. We do not
10 offer an opinion on this legal matter. However, as a
11 practical matter, the communities of Illinois and
12 this progress should be celebrated. ICIRR
13 complements the United Community Congress, Asian
14 American Institute, and Latino Agenda on their
15 excellent work to design maps showing how fair
16 boundaries are possible.

17 The Illinois Coalition for Immigrant
18 and Refugee Rights continues to work with the
19 progress of the Illinois DREAM Act to advance the
20 education of undocumented immigrant youth this
21 legislative session; for appropriate addressing of
22 immigrant needs in the Illinois budget; and for
23 measures that limit the destruction of families
24 through cruel deportations by the out-of-control

1 Secure Communities Program.

2 ICIRR is the largest immigrant
3 advocacy group in Illinois. ICIRR is 25 years old
4 and has 138 members.

5 Thank you.

6 ROGELIO INIGUEZ: Good afternoon. My name is
7 Rogelio -- Roger -- Iniguez. I am the state public
8 director for LULAC, the League of United Latin
9 American Citizens. I am also currently serving as
10 the president of the Chicago Council of Latin
11 American -- League of Latin American Citizens.

12 Since the very beginning, LULAC has
13 involved itself to ensure that Latinos and all the
14 minorities be fairly represented, not just here in
15 Chicago, but across the entire state.

16 As we look at the new map proposed by
17 the General Assembly, we would like to recognize the
18 fact that it does fairly represent and acknowledge
19 the hard work that the Senator and General Assembly
20 has done and the strides you have taken in ensuring a
21 fair and equitable map be presented.

22 We acknowledge our support for the
23 proposed map by the General Assembly. And though we
24 do see that pockets of small Latinos and minorities

1 do end up being misrepresented, great advancements do
2 not always begin in large steps and strides. It is
3 an everyday work. You take small steps, small
4 strides, you make concessions.

5 With that being said, again, we
6 acknowledge that the General Assembly and the hard
7 work you have put forth does fairly represent Latinos
8 and other minorities fairly and equitably.

9 Thank you.

10 CHAIRPERSON RAOUL: Any questions of any of
11 these witnesses?

12 (No response.)

13 Thank you for your testimony.

14 Netza Roldan; Josina Morita; Valerie
15 Leonard; Sam Sandoval; Sharda Thapa; Paul Naranjo;
16 Jose Alonso.

17 Why don't we start from this side.

18 JOSINA MORITA: Senator, good afternoon.

19 Good afternoon. On behalf of the
20 United Congress of Community and Religious
21 Organizations, a grassroots-led multiethnic human
22 rights alliance. Our nine member organizations work
23 in 30 communities throughout the Chicagoland area.
24 Over the last year, we have worked with

1 African-American, Latino, Asian and Arab-American
2 leaders to develop a racially equitable map at the
3 state and Congressional levels. Over 50 community
4 organizations -- and I'll include the list in my
5 testimony -- have signed on in support of the Unity
6 Map released in March, drawing a total of 57
7 majority-minority State House and Senate Districts
8 throughout Illinois, an increase of a dozen districts
9 from the 2000 map.

10 We want to thank the Senate
11 Redistricting Committee, especially Senator Raoul,
12 for his leadership in ensuring that the Senate held
13 public hearings after the release of draft maps as
14 promised. We want to acknowledge and share our
15 appreciation for the time each of you has put into
16 this process as well as understand the challenges and
17 complexities faced in creating a fair redistricting
18 map for everyone in the state. We hope to continue
19 to work with all of you to improve the redistricting
20 process in the future.

21 Along with our coalition members,
22 we've have analyzed the House and Senate maps
23 released over the last two days. We believe that
24 many of the principles, priorities and issues that

1 the United Congress and its coalition partners have
2 raised throughout this process are reflected in this
3 map. In particular, we applaud the fact that the
4 proposed maps keep Chinatown and Little Village --
5 communities that have been split into multiple
6 districts for the last decade -- intact. We do,
7 however, believe that the map can and should be
8 improved to respect more communities of interest --
9 including communities like Back of the Yards,
10 Englewood, West Englewood, Auburn-Gresham, and many
11 others that you'll hear from today -- as well as
12 include more voting rights districts, as well as
13 stronger voting rights districts to protect the
14 voting rights of Illinoisans.

15 In particular, we ask the General
16 Assembly to consider the following:

17 To protect existing African-American
18 State House and Senate voting rights districts on the
19 West Side of the Chicago. Strengthen these districts
20 to ensure there are effective majorities to ensure
21 residents in these areas will be able to elect the
22 candidates of their choice.

23 To ensure that existing as well as new
24 Latino State House and Senate Districts on the North

1 and South Sides have effective majorities to ensure
2 residents in these areas will be able to elect the
3 candidates of their choice. In particular, we
4 believe that the percentages on North Side districts
5 can be strengthened and that percentages on the South
6 Side can become more balanced.

7 Respect the communities of interest
8 identified by Asian-American communities that you've
9 heard from over the last few months on the North Side
10 by keeping them together in two House Districts and
11 one Senate District. We believe Asian-Americans can
12 and should make up at least a quarter of two House
13 Districts and one Senate District, and that
14 Asian-American neighborhoods, as defined by the
15 people who live there, can still be kept intact.

16 And, lastly, the Latino population in
17 the South Chicago area can make up one-third of a
18 House District. While it would be ideal to keep this
19 population in one House District, as we include in
20 our proposed map, and in the interest of ensuring
21 African-American districts in this area are
22 protected, we ask this can be drawn into at least one
23 Senate District.

24 Thanks.

1 CHAIRPERSON RAOUL: Thank you.

2 VALERIE LEONARD: Good afternoon. My name is
3 Valerie Leonard and I'm with the Lawndale Alliance.
4 I'm a resident of North Lawndale, obviously. And the
5 Lawndale Alliance is a group of people who have come
6 together on an ad hoc basis to address specific
7 issues about Lawndale. And if you live in Lawndale,
8 you know that we're pretty busy.

9 We would like to thank the Senate
10 Redistricting Committee for hosting a public hearing
11 on Chicago's West Side, and for fully considering
12 concerns voiced by the Lawndale Alliance during
13 previous hearings.

14 We've had the opportunity to review
15 the Senate's proposed maps and have outlined the
16 following issues -- basically there are two issues
17 and they're basically the same on the Senate -- I'm
18 sorry -- the state level and the federal level --
19 first of all, we should optimize the ability of
20 African-Americans from Chicago's West Side and
21 western suburbs to elect candidates of their choice
22 to the State Legislature.

23 We're very pleased that you've honored
24 our request to keep the North Lawndale and East and

1 West Garfield communities intact and have created a
2 proposed Senate District 5 with a majority of its
3 voting age population being African-American.

4 The Legislature's map proposal draws a
5 new Senate District 5 with 50.47 percent of it's
6 population being African-American. Currently, about
7 47 percent of the district's voting age population is
8 African-American. While the Legislature's proposal
9 represents an increase of about 3 percentage points
10 over the current situation, we respectfully request
11 that you revisit the map to optimize the voting age
12 percentage of African-Americans in Senate District 5.

13 We're are also concerned that the
14 Legislature proposes a Senate District 4 with
15 48.59 percent of its voting age population being
16 African-American. This represents a 10 percent -- a
17 10 percentage point decrease in the number of
18 African-Americans from 2000, and a 9 percentage point
19 decrease from the current situation.

20 The United Congress of Community and
21 Religious Organizations, UCCRO, have been able to
22 demonstrate the potential to draw two majority
23 African-American districts on Chicago's West Side
24 with 57 percent African-American population. The

1 UCCRO proposal includes boundaries for Senate
2 District 4 resulting in 56 percent of its voting age
3 population being African-American and boundaries for
4 Senate District 5 resulting in 52 percent of the
5 voting age being African-Americans.

6 We respectfully request that you
7 consider amending your proposal to optimize the
8 potential for African-Americans in Senate Districts 4
9 and 5 to elect candidates of their choice.

10 We also urge you to adopt UCCRO's
11 proposed Unity Map, which provides 56
12 majority-minority, coalition and influence districts
13 around the state of Illinois.

14 The Unity Map, more than any other
15 proposal in the state, respects minority communities
16 of interest and optimizes opportunities for us to
17 elect candidates of our choice.

18 The second issue is the loss of a
19 Congressional seat presents a challenge to the
20 ability of African-Americans from Chicago to elect
21 candidates of their choice for U.S. Congress.

22 Because the State of Illinois'
23 population grew at a slower rate than most states in
24 the country, we'll be losing a Congressional seat.

1 Chicago's three Congressional Districts headed by
2 African-Americans have each lost population and must
3 expand boundaries.

4 We were disappointed to read in
5 Crain's Chicago Business that the proposed map for
6 Illinois' Congressional districts would create three
7 majority African-American districts with a 51 percent
8 African-American population.

9 Our conversations with UCCRO have
10 indicated that the potential exists to draw three
11 majority African-American Congressional districts
12 with over 55 percent African-American population.

13 We respectfully request that the
14 Legislature ensures that Congressional district
15 boundaries be drawn with an eye towards protecting
16 the voting rights of African-Americans. This would
17 include optimizing the opportunity for us to elect
18 candidates of our choices in each of the majority
19 African-American districts in the Illinois
20 Delegation.

21 We also request that the lines be
22 drawn to enhance the chances of African-Americans on
23 the West Side to elect candidates of choice from the
24 West Side of Chicago.

1 In closing, we thank you for your time
2 and consideration and for hosting this public forum.
3 We have attached proposed maps for African-American
4 districts for Chicago's West Side and suburbs. And
5 these maps have been drawn taking into account
6 considerations from neighboring Latino communities.

7 If you have any questions, feel free
8 to call me. My phone number and e-mail and address
9 are enclosed.

10 Thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON RAOUL: Thank you. If you could
12 switch your mic off.

13 And just have -- once a witness is
14 through speaking, if you could switch your mic off
15 because the camera corresponds with which mic is on.

16 Thank you.

17 SHARDA THAPA: Thank you, Chairman Raoul and
18 the Committee. I am Sharda Thapa. I'm an
19 Asian-American community activist working with the
20 Asian-American Institute.

21 The Community has actively
22 participated in redistricting hearings and meetings
23 with legislators for years in order to give
24 thoughtful and essential input so that our community

1 does not suffer from the harm we have suffered
2 previously because of redistricting in Illinois.

3 The Asian-American Institute has
4 partnered with many community-based organizations and
5 community leaders to define our neighborhood
6 boundaries on the North Side of Chicago and nearby
7 suburbs.

8 We have provided district maps
9 proposals through a coalition work with the United
10 Congress of Community and Religious Organizations to
11 show that it is possible to draw strong
12 Asian-American influence districts, including a
13 Senate District of 25 percent Asians and two House
14 Districts each with over 25 percent Asians, and also
15 cause little or no fragmentation of Asian-American
16 neighborhoods, as defined by the people who live
17 there.

18 We have submitted numerous testimonies
19 and demographic analyses detailing the
20 characteristics and socioeconomic concerns about the
21 community. And these are available on our Web site
22 at aaichicago.org.

23 We are encouraged to the recent
24 proposals draw Senate District 8 to have over 23

1 percent Asian-Americans and House Districts 15 and 16
2 to have 20 percent and 25 percent Asian-Americans
3 respectfully.

4 However, we were dismayed to see that
5 the maps proposed by the Senate and House cause the
6 Asian-American community in the current Senate
7 Districts 8, 9 and 28 to become further fragmented
8 into Senate Districts 7, 8, 9 and 10, with portions
9 also in additional districts.

10 Similarly, the Asian-American
11 community in the current House Districts 15, 16, 17
12 and 57 becoming -- is becoming further fragmented
13 into House Districts 13, 15, 16, 17 and 20, with
14 portions also in additional districts. This further
15 fragmentation of our community will dilute the
16 Asian-American vote.

17 We urge the Senate Redistricting
18 Committee and the entire Illinois General Assembly to
19 take another careful look at the fragmentation of our
20 communities as seen in our attached maps. We request
21 that you be mindful of Asian-Americans' legal right
22 to have votes that count. We ask you to revise the
23 map so that our communities are in fewer Senate and
24 House Districts while also drawing at least one

1 Senate District and two House Districts on the North
2 Side to be at least 25 percent representation.

3 We stand in solidarity with other
4 minority communities whose voting rights must also be
5 protected during this redistricting cycle.

6 Thank you.

7 NETZA ROLDAN: Good afternoon, Chairperson
8 Raoul and honorable members of this community. My
9 name is Netza Roldan. I am the president and CEO of
10 the Binational Institute of Human Development, a
11 similar organization that promotes and develops
12 programs who have a national interest to bring a
13 mutual and better understanding through national,
14 state, local and city.

15 And one of our programs is Mexico,
16 which represents over 300,000 cities from Mexico City
17 and the region in Mexico City here in the United
18 States. And we have developed different programs in
19 general culture.

20 And we're here because, first and
21 foremost, we would like to thank the Committee to
22 take this time and, of course, listen to all of us.
23 And I have a personal opinion of the results and the
24 benefits when new redistricting happens. You know,

1 ten years ago, Senators met to redistrict then. And
2 since that time, we saw the benefits that the
3 community in these districts really, you know, took
4 upon and it was the redevelopment because of these
5 redistricting.

6 And it is wonderful that you are
7 taking another first step to a great advancement in
8 having a better equality and balance in our
9 representation. I am leaning towards you to take a
10 look at all of our comments.

11 We'd also like to express that we
12 encourage you to preserve the African-American
13 districts. And, you know, the immigrants in this
14 country and all of the communities are -- because all
15 the time, the traditional communities are not where
16 they traditionally were before. So everything is
17 changing and rapidly and we see people moving all
18 over. And it is very important that you take
19 preservation.

20 And, once again, we thank you for
21 allowing us to speak up and also, you know, for the
22 vision that you have and the vision that a person can
23 have in redistricting this map. And we would like to
24 express our support for this new proposed map.

1 Thank you very much.

2 PAUL NARANJO: Good afternoon. My name is Paul
3 Naranjo. I work with Pilsen Wellness Center. It's
4 an organization where we have 40 years of experience
5 in the Latino community as well as other communities
6 in Chicago. We serve thousands of families from
7 non-income, middle class social services.

8 The reason why I'm here today is
9 because I'm glad to express our gratitude as well as
10 our support for the new mapping system that has been
11 developed by Senator Mulroe to show representation
12 for the needs of the minorities here in the
13 Chicagoland area as well as.

14 Thank you.

15 JOSE ALONSO: Good afternoon, distinguished
16 members of the Committee. My name is Jose Alonso and
17 I am here on behalf of the Committee for a Unified
18 Back of the Yards.

19 The Committee for a Unified Back of
20 the Yards is a group comprised of residents,
21 religious institutions, social service agencies,
22 local schools, parks and the business community. The
23 mission of our committee is to advocate for an intact
24 and unified Back of the Yards during the

1 redistricting process.

2 As a preliminary matter, we would like
3 to incorporate our committee's testimony and exhibits
4 offered to the Senate Redistricting Committee on
5 April 19th in Cicero. We would like to also thank
6 the Senator -- the Senate Redistricting Committee,
7 especially Senator Raoul and our Senator, Mattie
8 Hunter, for valuing transparency and public input and
9 for their leadership in ensuring that the Senate hold
10 public hearings after the release of the draft maps.

11 Our committee has reviewed the
12 proposed Senate map and it does not keep our
13 neighborhood intact; therefore we cannot support it
14 in its current form.

15 We point your attention to
16 Exhibit A -- we provided copies at the desk. I'm not
17 sure if you have them in front of you -- we point
18 your attention to Exhibit A and Exhibit B. Exhibit A
19 shows the boundaries of our neighborhood as compiled
20 and agreed to by our committee members. The borders
21 are 39th Street on the north, 52nd Street on the
22 south, Halsted on the east, and Western on the west.

23 Exhibit B shows a close-up of our
24 neighborhood with the current Senate District

1 boundaries. As you can see, our neighborhood is
2 practically cut in half and that is not acceptable.

3 Back of the Yards is a community of
4 interest. An important principle in the
5 redistricting process is the following: "A community
6 of interest should be kept together within the same
7 district to the extent possible." LULAC v. Perry, a
8 2006 United States Supreme Court, stands for the
9 proposition that the line drawers should be careful
10 not to divide populations or communities that have
11 common needs and interests.

12 We are one community. Our community,
13 as defined by Exhibit A, the shares racial, ethnic,
14 language, cultural and socioeconomic identifiers.

15 We have one vision. Our community is
16 connected by a shared commitment to advance immigrant
17 rights, create peace, accompany our youth, promote
18 economic development and improve living conditions
19 and our local schools.

20 We are one voice. We are asking you
21 to keep us united so that our voice is not diluted,
22 fractured or silenced. There are a lot of good
23 people doing a lot of good things in our
24 neighborhood. We are increasingly coming together to

1 address the struggles in our neighborhood, but it is
2 a challenge. It becomes more of a challenge when our
3 community is divided politically. We are now asking
4 you to allow us to be one voice in the eyes of the
5 Legislature.

6 We offer Exhibits C through K into the
7 record. These exhibits are letters of support from
8 the Back of the Yards Neighborhood Council, the Peace
9 and Education Coalition, United Southwest Chamber of
10 Commerce, Precious Blood Ministries, Holy Cross
11 Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, St. Michael's
12 Parish, the Union Impact Center, Mothers for Peace,
13 and Neighborhood Housing Services. In addition, we
14 have previously submitted signed petition from
15 residents of our neighborhood.

16 In conclusion, we thank the
17 Redistricting Committee for maintaining larger ethnic
18 communities intact in the proposed maps. That is a
19 step forward. However, the map fails to keep our
20 community intact.

21 If you take a close look at the map,
22 Exhibit A, we are really only talking about blocks
23 here. We're not asking for a new district. We're
24 talking about blocks.

1 In the eyes of the stenographers, the
2 change that we are proposing may seem insignificant,
3 but to us it means the world. Therefore, we
4 respectfully request the Redistricting Committee to
5 reconsider the district boundaries in our
6 neighborhood and keep the Back of the Yards intact.

7 Thank you.

8 CHAIRPERSON RAOUL: Senator Righter.

9 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: Thank you.
10 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11 The first question I have is for the
12 gentleman from the Back of the Yards who also just
13 testified. I have a copy of your letter in front of
14 me and I read through it and then I was listening to
15 your testimony and they don't seem to jive to me and
16 I need to you help me with that.

17 JOSE ALONSO: Sure.

18 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: The letter
19 talks about supporting the map that's been unveiled
20 here in the last 24 hours or so.

21 What I hear from you is that you don't
22 support it.

23 JOSE ALONSO: What letter are you referring to?

24 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: I have a letter

1 that was distributed to us -- it doesn't carry a
2 date. It was distributed to us by your staff.

3 JOSE ALONSO: If I can just -- what I see from
4 what you're holding up -- is that a letter from the
5 Back of the Yards Neighborhood Council?

6 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: Yes.

7 JOSE ALONSO: We are a Committee for the
8 Unified Back of the Yards. The Back of the Yards
9 Neighborhood Council submitted a letter of support,
10 which you had included in the exhibits.

11 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: Thank you.

12 That took care of it.

13 My question is for you.

14 I wonder now if I can ask,

15 Ms. Morita --

16 JOSINA MORITA: Yeah.

17 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: -- your
18 testimony was interesting to me and I want to follow
19 up with that.

20 But, first, you made the comment in
21 your testimony that your organization has had the
22 opportunity to analyze the map over the last few
23 days. Those are the words you used.

24 It's my understanding that the Senate

1 District map was first displayed on the Illinois
2 Senate Democrat Web site about a little more than
3 48 hours ago and that the House lines, which are
4 crucial, obviously, to examining the issues with
5 regards to constitutionality, were posted less than
6 24 hours ago.

7 So help me with that time line
8 relative to your comment that you've been able to
9 examine it over the last few days.

10 JOSINA MORITA: I've gotten very little sleep.
11 The maps were released two days ago from the Senate
12 and yesterday from the House. We were able to
13 analyze those, put them into our mapping program
14 based on the street boundaries provided and look at
15 the general demographics within those. And that's
16 what we've used to analyze that data.

17 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: So to be
18 clear -- I mean, did you see the lines then before
19 they were displayed on the Web site? I guess that's
20 what I'm asking.

21 JOSINA MORITA: No.

22 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: You didn't?

23 You've examined the House Districts?

24 JOSINA MORITA: The -- yes.

1 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: How did you --
2 how do you spend that time examining the House
3 Districts when it was posted yesterday afternoon?
4 That's what I can't figure out.

5 JOSINA MORITA: It was a tremendous amount of
6 work.

7 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: Okay. So "the
8 last few days" was a mistake?

9 JOSINA MORITA: When I said "a few days," I
10 meant the last two days since the Senate map came
11 out.

12 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: Okay. How
13 many -- how many Latino districts are drawn into this
14 map, House Districts?

15 JOSINA MORITA: House Districts?

16 From what we can tell, we think that
17 there are four above the super majority threshold.

18 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: What's that
19 number?

20 JOSINA MORITA: 65 percent.

21 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: Okay.

22 JOSINA MORITA: And from what we can tell, nine
23 above 50 percent.

24 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: Can you

1 identify the ones that are above the 65 percent
2 number that you've given.

3 JOSINA MORITA: 1, 21, 24 and 3.

4 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: And then -- I'm
5 sorry -- the others that you referred to, those are
6 the numbers?

7 JOSINA MORITA: 22, 2, 83, 40, 39, 77, 4, 43
8 and 60.

9 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: What is the
10 percentage of voting age population Latinos do you
11 think need to be in a House District in order for you
12 to make a judgment -- or your organization to make a
13 judgment that it will -- the word I'm going to use
14 here is "perform" -- in other words, that you elect a
15 Latino candidate. What's that number?

16 JOSINA MORITA: We don't have a hard number.
17 We defer to lawyers for this situation. We have used
18 the 65 percent threshold as a super majority as
19 defined in past legal cases. We know that that may
20 change.

21 So, you know, we've been using that as
22 a measure to look to evaluate, but not a definitive
23 number.

24 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: When someone

1 uses the term with you that "this is a Latino
2 district," when you look at that district, what's
3 that -- what is that number?

4 At some point you've got to make a
5 judgment whether or not that is a Latino district or
6 not. And I guess I'm trying to get a feel from your
7 organization about what that number might be. How do
8 you make that judgment?

9 JOSINA MORITA: Again, we use a 65 percent
10 super majority as a category to look at the maps as
11 well as over 50 percent, but we -- we are not making
12 any kind of legal definitive judgment about what will
13 or won't be an electable Latino district in terms of
14 a hard number.

15 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: Would under
16 50 --

17 JOSINA MORITA: It varies by geography.

18 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: Would under 50
19 percent?

20 JOSINA MORITA: Under 50 percent?

21 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: Of the voting
22 age population be a Latino district in your
23 coalition's view?

24 JOSINA MORITA: No.

1 My particular concern is that we
2 support the United Congress' concept and the map they
3 put forward. And I was concerned about our
4 regression. In the last remap -- I believe it was --

5 CHAIRPERSON RAOUL: Can I ask you to push your
6 mic button off and then push it back on.

7 All right.

8 BRUCE CROSBY: In the last remap, the
9 Auburn-Gresham community was fractured. And we had
10 hoped that this time that that would be rectified.
11 In the course of that period, from the last remap
12 until now, no one from our community has been able to
13 run for the State Legislature, not through the House
14 or the Senate, and nobody has been able in that
15 community to make the battle. And that's not because
16 of their inability to gather signatures, but because
17 the process has put them in a district that is in
18 Auburn-Gresham and at the same time it reheals. So
19 even if they were making the ballot, I mean, there's
20 a question whether they would even be elected.

21 And so I'd like to urge the members of
22 this Committee to vote "no" on the proposal. We are
23 proposed -- we are opposed to this proposal. We
24 would hope and -- well, we think it won't be resolved

1 until this matter is in the federal courts. And we
2 would pray that you all would get out in front of
3 this, prevent the common issue that would have to be
4 litigated for probably a year or two before it's
5 finally resolved. And you all are going to end up
6 with egg on your face because you're going to find
7 out that you violated the Voting Rights Act in the
8 Auburn-Gresham community, in particular.

9 And like you, Senator, I haven't had a
10 chance to look at the whole map for the whole state;
11 but if Auburn-Gresham is any example of the work that
12 was done on this, it's a possibility there are a
13 number of other areas that have the same problem.

14 In regards to your process, it was
15 great to hear that you was -- you provided an area
16 for the people who were concerned to draw a map; but
17 on the 1st of May, that area here in Chicago didn't
18 exist anymore because the staff claimed that the
19 computer -- the public was using to draw the map was
20 the same computer that you all had to use to draw a
21 map in Springfield. So we could no longer
22 participate in that.

23 I'm just very thankful that the United
24 Congress is an organization that was able to work

1 with us and a number of other community organizations
2 and we were able to get input in their equipment and
3 we were able to make suggestions for them for our
4 area.

5 So I would urge everyone in this
6 community to vote "no" when this comes up for a vote.

7 Thank you.

8 RICHARD GREENFIELD: Good afternoon. My name
9 is Richard J. Greenfield. I am here as a concerned
10 taxpayer.

11 When looking at the map, it's not
12 perfect, though, but -- can you hear me now?

13 It's not a perfect map, but it is a
14 good map. I stand to lose my current Senator,
15 Senator Raoul, but it's okay.

16 CHAIRPERSON RAOUL: Thank you.

17 RICHARD GREENFIELD: But it works well for
18 minorities. And if you have -- and how the way it
19 looks, if the Asian-Americans, if they're getting a
20 state representative and if Latino-Americans are
21 happy with it and you're getting most of minority
22 group's approval of this map, I say I urge you
23 against the vote for this map because it's very --
24 from looking at it, it's a very complicated progress.

1 Thank you.

2 MUJAHID GHAZI: My name is Mujahid Ghazi and
3 I'm the president of South Asian Community Alliance
4 Rogers Park.

5 Mr. Chairman, Raoul, and members of
6 the Senate Redistricting Committee, this is my second
7 time in this room for what is right for
8 Asian-Americans and what is right for America.

9 We are in nationally agreement and for
10 the last two years or so, the Asian-Americans
11 Institute, the Council of Islamic Organizations and
12 other organizations have worked hard to come to a
13 consensus within our progress in designing and
14 presenting redistricting maps acceptable to almost
15 everyone.

16 Maps will bring communities together.
17 Maps will facilitate the social and unitarian growth
18 of these communities. Maps will give them a voice,
19 not divide and dilute it. Maps will empower them to
20 have representation on all levels. Maps to prevent
21 the harm done by fragmentation of the community after
22 the previous redistricting in Illinois ten years ago.

23 Mr. Chairman and members of the
24 committee, ten years is a long time. We have already

1 suffered for ten years. And now if we suffer another
2 ten years, it is going to be a great disaster for our
3 community at large.

4 As I mentioned, we work hard to
5 provide district map proposals to our coalition work
6 with the United Congress of Community and Religious
7 Organizations. Through these maps, we proved that it
8 is more than possible to draw unfragmented
9 Asian-American districts.

10 In the previous years, we have
11 submitted demographic analysis depicting the
12 characteristics and socioeconomy (sic) concerns of
13 our community. Many members of our community gave
14 their personal testimony highlighting the hardships
15 we have to go through in the present electoral
16 device. My community is dismayed and feel betrayed.

17 After seeing the Senate's proposed
18 map, the Asian-American community and Districts 8, 9
19 and 28 is becoming further fragmented into Senate
20 Districts 7, 8, 9 and 10 with portions also in
21 Districts 20 and 28, as you can see in the exhibit
22 here.

23 If this proposal got approved, it will
24 further fragment our community and will dilute the

1 Asian-American vote.

2 Why do we have to see or analyze the
3 proposed House District lines, which you know just
4 came out -- we apprehend that the fragmentation
5 caused by the House District lines will be even worse
6 than the fragmentation caused by the Senate District
7 lines.

8 We, the Asian-American community, want
9 our votes to be powerful, to, to empower our social
10 ability and structure. It is our legal right for us
11 to change. In years to come, we will be powerless
12 for another ten years to come.

13 I urge the Senate Redistricting
14 Committee and the entire Illinois General Assembly to
15 take another careful look at the fragmentation of our
16 community as seen on that map provided -- of
17 Asian-Americans provided earlier.

18 I urge you to revise the map so that
19 it gives our communities a lesser district and
20 growing at least one Senate District on the North
21 Side to give each 25 percent representation. The
22 Asian-Americans stand in solidarity with other
23 minority communities whose voting rights must also be
24 protected during this redistricting cycle.

1 Dear members of the community, history
2 is in the making and it is you who can decide what
3 the future of our communities will look like in the
4 coming years.

5 Thank you.

6 C.W. CHAN: Members of the distinguished
7 committee, my name is C.W. Chan. I'm the chairman of
8 the Coalition for a Better Chinese American
9 Community, CBCAC. CBCAC is a coalition of major
10 Asian-American service organizations in the Chicago
11 area. And it was formed ten years ago to spearhead a
12 campaign to have Chinatown drawn into a single
13 legislative district.

14 We had the opportunity to review the
15 Senate and the House proposed maps that were unveiled
16 in the last few days. Although we still do not have
17 the demographics of the House Districts, it appears
18 quite clearly that Chinatown has been kept intact,
19 with the exception of a few population pockets at the
20 edges as compared to Greater Chinatown Community Area
21 proposal submitted by CBCAC to this Committee at
22 previous hearings.

23 Over 90 percent of the
24 Chinese-Americans in the South Side neighborhoods of

1 Armour Square, Bridgeport, McKinley Park and Brighton
2 Park will be in a single State House District, which
3 is a far cry from the result of the last
4 redistricting which split Chinatown into four
5 districts.

6 I'll also make the statement that when
7 I mentioned about 90 percent, we are not getting
8 everybody in. So I chose Senator Maggie Crotty. I'm
9 happy that if -- we'll still be able to call her a
10 Senator who has been a true good friend of the
11 community.

12 Ten years ago, China was the most
13 convenient victim of redistricting. This time,
14 Chinatown has become the most high-profiled victim.
15 So throughout the redistricting process leading to
16 this point, legislative leaders and leaders from the
17 African-American and Latino community organizations
18 all rallied in support of Chinatown being kept intact
19 to this round of redistricting.

20 I'm here to express my gratitude to
21 all our supporters. I'd like to particularly thank
22 Chairman Kwame Raoul for working closely with our
23 community and advocating for our cause, in addition
24 to guiding through the passage of the Voting Right

1 Act of Illinois 2011, which protects the voting
2 rights of language and ethnic communities with less
3 than the voting age majority. I also want to that
4 this Committee for holding hearings after release of
5 the Legislature's proposal as requested by community
6 groups.

7 The Chinatown community is pleased
8 with the Legislature's proposed maps. However, we
9 also mindful of the fact that many of our community
10 coalition partners still have concerns about their
11 respective areas, particularly the Asian-American
12 neighborhoods in the north Cook County. And you have
13 heard testimonies from -- being the most visible
14 community that was split into multiple districts and
15 has lived through its negative impacts as a result of
16 the last redistricting, the Chinatown community feels
17 strongly that such inequity should not happen to any
18 racial and language minority communities with this
19 redistricting.

20 While considered by many as a zero-sum
21 game, this redistricting has brought many community
22 organizations together. CBCAC is proud to be a
23 partner of UCCRO coalition group. UCCRO has engaged
24 the largest number of ethnic and community

1 organizations, including CBCAC, at the very early
2 stage of the redistricting process, and its proposal
3 represents a painstakingly achieved compromise that
4 would serve as a model of the collaboration and
5 cooperation among ethnic and language minorities.

6 We will continue to support UCCRO's
7 effort to work with our Legislators to improve the
8 proposal maps for the protection of voting rights of
9 minority communities.

10 Thank you very much.

11 KYLE HILLMAN: Hi. My name is Kyle Hillman. I
12 am here advocating for the 49th Ward of Rogers Park.
13 I want to say that after I got access to the Google
14 Earth files, I threw overlays on it and spent a lot
15 of time on it.

16 And I have to say, I'm a little
17 disappointed because not only did this Committee
18 listen to my testimony, but you somehow found a way
19 to actually implement that testimony into the map.

20 So I guess my entire speech today is
21 just thank you. And...

22 SYLVIA PUENTE: Good afternoon. My name is
23 Sylvia Puente. I'm the executive director of the
24 Latino Policy Forum. As you know, the Latino Policy

1 Forum is also the co-creator of the Illinois Latino
2 Agenda.

3 Over the course of the last month, the
4 Illinois Latino Agenda has testified nine House and
5 Senate Redistricting Committee hearings combined.
6 And our remarks have been primarily focused on the
7 dramatic growth of the Latino population, the need
8 for transparency throughout the redistricting
9 process, and the creation of new Latino majority
10 influence or coalition districts throughout the
11 state.

12 So what I'd like to say is that I want
13 to thank this Committee, and, in particular, Chairman
14 Raoul for ensuring that the general public has had
15 the opportunity to view and comment on the proposed
16 map before it was voted on. We are pleased that we
17 showed you our maps and you have shown us yours.

18 After reviewing by the -- the House
19 and Senate maps released over the past couple of
20 days, we are disappointed about the -- with the map
21 being proposed by the Legislature. Given the
22 dramatic 33 percent growth of Latino population over
23 the last decade, our analysis indicates that Latino
24 residents are being short-changed by the current

1 proposal.

2 As you can see -- and I think you've
3 just gotten it in this attached table -- if you look
4 at the bottom, our analysis that we have collaborated
5 on with United Congress has shown that we can
6 increase Latino majority, influence or coalition
7 districts and that they do not have to come at the
8 expense of African-American majority districts.

9 And my understanding is that this
10 proposal not only short changes the Latino community,
11 but in a map that you proposed and where it's been
12 debated that if you create more Latino districts, you
13 have to create fewer African-American districts; but
14 my understanding is the current proposal shows two --
15 not only Latino -- fewer Latino districts that can be
16 created at the 65 percent threshold, but also two
17 fewer African-American districts at the 55 percent
18 threshold.

19 So in terms of geography -- in terms
20 of geography, the most egregious aspect of this map
21 comes -- from our perspective comes from the South
22 and Southwest Side of Chicago. We have shown that it
23 is possible to create six Latino majority districts
24 on the South Side and 55 percent -- five of which are

1 at a 65 percent threshold. Currently, there are
2 four. This proposal of the Legislature creates only
3 three at a 65 percent or above threshold. We believe
4 this is the community being short-changed unless
5 progress is being made.

6 In addition, we are concerned about
7 the overall sustainability of the Latino majority
8 districts on the North Side of Chicago, where three
9 of the four Latino population thresholds appear to
10 hover in the middle 50s. We are concerned, although
11 we know there are many challenges in the census
12 count, it does appear that Latinos are dispersing
13 from these areas and then over time these areas may
14 have less Latino population.

15 On the good side, we are heartened
16 that the simple majority districts have been created
17 in the suburbs, in Franklin Park, in Waukegan, in
18 Elgin and Carpentersville appear to be in these maps.
19 However, we do take issue with the -- with the Aurora
20 area which is the only place in the suburbs which saw
21 a dramatic Latino population growth where you could
22 have created a district at the 65 percent threshold
23 and it has not been created.

24 Furthermore, our preliminary analysis

1 indicates that additional influence districts could
2 have been created in areas like the south suburbs of
3 Chicago.

4 And, again, to reiterate and in
5 closing, the analysis that we have done shows that
6 there were thirteen 65-plus Latino districts that
7 could have been created and the combined maps show
8 only six. We believe this is short-changing the
9 Latino community. We believe and request that the
10 Legislature can do better.

11 Thank you.

12 CHAIRPERSON RAOUL: Senator Righter.

13 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: Thank you.

14 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15 Follow-ups. Obviously -- everyone in
16 the room who was listening could hear and sense your
17 frustration over what's happened in your
18 neighborhood.

19 And I want to be clear, do you see the
20 lines there as a situation where what you wanted to
21 be done for your neighborhood -- wanted to be done
22 didn't get done but because it couldn't or it could
23 have easily been done better and whoever drew the
24 lines chose not to?

1 BRUCE CROSBY: I think whoever -- I thank you
2 for your questions, Senator.

3 I think whoever drew the lines just
4 didn't look -- weren't concerned about Auburn-Gresham
5 and they weren't trying to rectify the problem that
6 has been pointed out. United Community Congress and
7 their proposal very easily addressed the situation in
8 Auburn-Gresham and this Committee ignored it. I
9 mean, that's just plain and simple.

10 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: Okay. What --
11 do you have -- so the specific suggestion you have,
12 you already put in front of the --

13 BRUCE CROSBY: Yeah, United --

14 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: -- people who
15 were drawing the lines?

16 BRUCE CROSBY: Yes, sir. I think the United
17 Community Congress has already presented their
18 proposal for that community and you should have it in
19 your files.

20 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: Thank you.

21 Next is for the gentleman in the green
22 shirt there who I know is more disappointed to lose
23 Chairman Raoul as a Senator than he is letting on.

24 I'll wait until he's done.

1 RICHARD GREENFIELD: Me?

2 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: Yes, sir.

3 Can you give me your name again,
4 please.

5 Turn that mic on and speak right into
6 it.

7 RICHARD GREENFIELD: Richard Greenfield.

8 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: Mr. Greenfield?

9 RICHARD GREENFIELD: Yes.

10 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: Who do you
11 represent?

12 RICHARD GREENFIELD: I represent myself.

13 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: Okay. Okay.
14 Fair enough. Good for you.

15 You've kind of -- you've endorsed the
16 map. You've said it's not perfect, but it does
17 right?

18 RICHARD GREENFIELD: I said, yes, it did
19 because it kind of reflects minorities from looking
20 at this -- from examining this map from the past two
21 days when it was released Thursday, it looks like
22 it -- because, like I said, from earlier groups that
23 represent minorities, most of them endorsed the plan
24 because it is fair to Asian-Americans, it is fair to

1 Latino-Americans, and it's fair to African-Americans.
2 Because we've got to think about it,
3 African-Americans -- as I'm African-American -- we
4 did lose population. So it is only fair that we
5 would lose one legislative district.

6 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: Okay. I guess
7 in listening to the representatives of some of the
8 groups that you've outlined, I'm not sure I would
9 necessarily agree that there's consensus in either
10 the Asian-American community or the Latino-American
11 community.

12 RICHARD GREENFIELD: Well, Senator Righter,
13 some of them have endorsed the plan. I'm not saying
14 all of them.

15 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: So it's your
16 opinion on the map is based on what you've heard
17 other people say or did you --

18 RICHARD GREENFIELD: I --

19 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: Let me finish
20 my question, please, and then that way you'll know
21 what to answer.

22 -- it's based on your individual
23 examination of the lines or what you're hearing from
24 others who have done that?

1 RICHARD GREENFIELD: Okay. First of all, I
2 read the map Thursday when it first came out. When I
3 first saw it, I read it, too, and then also from
4 hearing from some of the other groups that has
5 endorsed the plan.

6 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: Are you
7 familiar with the percentage breakouts of different
8 groups, whether it's African-Americans,
9 Asian-Americans, in these districts?

10 RICHARD GREENFIELD: Yes, I am.

11 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: You are?

12 RICHARD GREENFIELD: Yeah.

13 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: Give to me your
14 thoughts then more specifically on the
15 African-American House Districts that have been drawn
16 in your area insofar as the percentage of voting age,
17 population.

18 RICHARD GREENFIELD: Well, I have -- I did not
19 look at the House -- that House map yet. I only have
20 had a chance to really pay attention to the Senate
21 since that was the first one released.

22 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: Okay. And it's
23 understandable because you -- I mean, there's been
24 very little time since the House lines were released.

1 And I'm sure you would agree that in
2 order to make any type of real judgment on the
3 legislative map, you can't do it seeing 59 of 177
4 districts, which is what a Senate map is?

5 RICHARD GREENFIELD: Well, from looking at this
6 one, I endorsed the one that the Senate has. I did
7 not endorse the one that the House has made yet.

8 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: Is that because
9 you have an issue with it or because you have not
10 seen that one yet?

11 RICHARD GREENFIELD: I have not seen that. I
12 saw this one Thursday --

13 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: Okay.

14 RICHARD GREENFIELD: -- when it was released.

15 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: Okay.

16 CHAIRPERSON RAOUL: This would be an important
17 time for me to indicate the House of Representatives
18 will be having a hearing tomorrow in this very room
19 on the House map. So anybody here who will have the
20 extra time to look at the House maps, will be able to
21 come in here tomorrow --

22 What time is it?

23 THE CLERK: 2:00.

24 CHAIRPERSON RAOUL: -- at 2:00 p.m. to give

1 input on the House of Representative maps.

2 So if you want to look at the House of
3 Representative maps --

4 RICHARD GREENFIELD: I'll be in church
5 tomorrow.

6 CHAIRPERSON RAOUL: Senator Righter.

7 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: Mr. Chairman, I
8 appreciate that point, but I would appreciate that a
9 witness in answering a question -- I ask that they at
10 least be allowed to finish before you make a point
11 about a hearing that's happening the next day.

12 CHAIRPERSON RAOUL: I believe he had finished
13 replying and I waited till he stopped. And at that
14 time, it wasn't just simply for this witness or for
15 yourself, it's for everybody in the room, including
16 people who may leave prior to your questioning of
17 this witness, so they know that they'll have an
18 opportunity not only to have more time to review the
19 House of Representative maps, but to come have public
20 in input in this very room.

21 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: Can I proceed
22 now, Mr. Chairman?

23 CHAIRPERSON RAOUL: (Nonverbal response.)

24 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: Thank you.

1 So, sir, to be clear here, the
2 comments you made are on the maps that you saw
3 unveiled Thursday?

4 RICHARD GREENFIELD: Yes, Senate Bill 1274.

5 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON RAOUL: Thank you all for your
7 testimony.

8 James Pauly; Mary Schaafsma; Alexander
9 Sharp, Whitney Woodward; and Carl Lambrecht.

10 Add Senator Garrett and Senator
11 Collins to roll.

12 CARL LAMBRECHT: My name is Carol Lambrecht. I
13 represent my family. You neglected to say that. You
14 indicated that I was an individual.

15 My name is Carol Lambrecht. I
16 represent my family. My family is quite diverse. We
17 have immigrants from Syria, Mexico, India, Germany,
18 Ireland and religious groups quite diverse as well.
19 Organizations that I personally belong to are quite
20 diverse as well.

21 Now, when I look at this map, I think
22 it of the Crazy Quilt Dragon and it looks like a
23 bunch of snakes coming in and out of Chicago. And I
24 think it should be more that things are square and

1 represent communities rather than crossing over
2 communities. Those are my comments.

3 It's legal corruption as I see it.

4 JAMES PAULY: Hello. My name is James Pauly
5 and I represent the Libertarian Party of Chicago. I
6 had originally planned on coming in and talking about
7 some of the districts in Chicago, but I think I will
8 switch to some of the districts in the greater state
9 of Illinois, if I may.

10 If the Senate would look at the McLean
11 County for Districts 44, 53 and 51, I have a question
12 about that area and want to comment.

13 My question is, in the last map that
14 we had for the year 2001 and today, it looks like
15 that the city of Bloomington and Normal will once
16 again be divided into multiple districts. And I just
17 had a question as to why that keeps on happening.

18 CHAIRPERSON RAOUL: We're taking input today.
19 We're not fielding questions.

20 JAMES PAULY: Then I recant that. Sorry.

21 Okay. But my comment on them would be
22 that I would recommend that this Senate-based
23 equity -- I'll look once again at this map and see if
24 they can find a way to not separate counties outside

1 the collar counties and City of Chicago, but the
2 greater state of Illinois, and make sure that they
3 divide those counties in as few districts as possible
4 because there are some in which you will have most of
5 that county in one district and then you'll have just
6 this little sliver which is in another district. And
7 it just doesn't seem to me to make a lot of sense to
8 divide that county up as people were talking today
9 about dividing up communities, whether it be Asian or
10 so much. I think that that same lack of division
11 should be applied to the rest of the city and the
12 county levels.

13 And then my only other comment is, I
14 do appreciate the opportunity to have this hearing
15 today; but I would ask that in the future, that more
16 time be given between the first day that people have
17 the opportunity to see this map and this hearing,
18 which, as you all know, is less than 48 hours in
19 between. I would ask and hope that in the future,
20 that there might be a House and Senate bill to
21 require at a minimum one week between the actual
22 unveiling of the maps and for public scrutiny because
23 some of the previous speakers here said that they
24 hadn't gotten much sleep going over the maps because

1 they literally -- there was so much demographic
2 information to go over and 48 hours is really not
3 enough time for that.

4 So thank you.

5 REVEREND ALEXANDER SHARP: My name is Alexander
6 Sharp. I'm -- excuse me.

7 Alexander Sharp. I'm the executive
8 director of Protestants for the Common Good.

9 I'm here today to speak on behalf of
10 CHANGE Illinois!. I'm proud to be a member of the
11 steering committee of that group, as you know well,
12 it's a non-partisan coalition of diverse interests
13 including organizations that represent more than 2
14 million Illinoisans working for political reform.

15 And I think our perspective is
16 important and it's somewhat distinguished from so
17 much of what you've heard here because it is an
18 organization -- as is Protestants for the Common
19 Good -- and it calls for an overview of the entire
20 process, not just how the redistricting proposals
21 effect any individual community or Senate community,
22 but how all the combinations of things representative
23 of a proposal can be seen together. So the comment
24 we make should be seen from that perspective.

1 And the hearings certainly held by the
2 Senate and the House Redistricting Committees prior
3 to the release of the maps offered a good opportunity
4 for the public to value what they hoped to see in new
5 map. And today's hearing is welcome.

6 I wasn't part of the hearings ten
7 years ago, if there were any; but it's very clear
8 that the process has moved well beyond what occurred
9 ten years ago and we're grateful for that, also very
10 aware that we're coming here on a Saturday and that
11 you all have an intense agenda in Springfield.

12 And I say all that because given all
13 the good things, we do have some criticisms and it's
14 interesting that we follow the gentleman that just
15 spoke because the transparency and public
16 participation process is, for all the good things
17 that happened, now they're getting murkier. We had
18 the hearings before the proposals, but we're after
19 that now and we don't think that we are -- have
20 received the information or the time to adequately
21 review it. And we feel unless more information is
22 made available to the public soon and more hearings
23 are proposed, we think you will fall short in spite
24 of good intentions of overseeing a completely

1 transparent redistricting process with maximum
2 informed public involvement.

3 And I will reiterate the four things
4 that CHANGE did ask for prior to the release of the
5 map. We asked that the maps drafted by the
6 legislative leaders and presented to lawmakers be
7 posted on a Web site accessible to the general
8 public.

9 You did that on Thursday for the
10 Senate maps and Friday afternoon for the House maps.
11 There still is the question, where is the
12 Congressional map?

13 Secondly, we ask that the maps be
14 accompanied by the same data known to the map-makers
15 and should include the census demographics, political
16 data of the draft districts, and a narrative
17 explanation explaining the selection of the
18 boundaries, the impact on minorities, communities of
19 interest, municipal and county boundaries and similar
20 characteristics.

21 Senator Raoul, who is my own Senator,
22 listed a whole range of principles. And the
23 information that you have presented is light and
24 makes it very impossible to -- very difficult to

1 review these maps in light of all those principles.

2 The third point is that the -- given
3 what we've said, we think the public should have a
4 week -- and that was the figure you asked for -- to
5 analyze the maps and data in preparation for regional
6 hearings. By holding your first hearing today so
7 soon after the release of picture maps -- and this is
8 the key point -- the public has too little time and
9 too little information. More time is needed.

10 I just think as executive director,
11 for example, of the Protestants for the Common Good,
12 what would I tell my board or my constituents that
13 would enable them to comment on what you released?
14 What would I put in my news letter? Or what kind of
15 analysis would be out, other than this information,
16 that would enable them to respond or in indeed to
17 have attended this meeting?

18 Four, we asked for a minimum of four
19 hearings in different regions of the state. Unless
20 more hearings are scheduled and outside of Chicago
21 and Springfield, that will be another missed
22 opportunity for transparency and public
23 participation.

24 So thank you what you've done to move

1 the process forward, but we do think, even in the
2 time we have now, the process could have been
3 approved in this ten block -- ten-year block so that
4 we won't have to wait for improvements in the next
5 ten-year block.

6 Thank you.

7 WHITNEY WOODWARD: Good afternoon. My name is
8 Whitney Woodward and I represent the Illinois
9 Campaign for Political Reform. ICPR is a
10 non-partisan and non-profit public interest group
11 that researches and advocates transparency and
12 accountability in government and politics.

13 For the last 18 months ICPR has
14 encouraged the Senate Redistricting Committee to open
15 historical legislative and Congressional district
16 drawing process to the public. In past decades, maps
17 have been drawn away from public view and with
18 minimal opportunities for residents to observe,
19 participate in and contribute to the process.

20 To that note, we thank the Senate
21 Redistricting Committee for taking some steps towards
22 remedying that significant and long-standing problem.
23 Unfortunately, considering the process as of late, we
24 don't see any reason to believe that the map released

1 Thursday has put community interest above partisan
2 interests. I echo many of today's speakers with
3 regard to the timing of today's hearing.

4 The Committee decision to hold a
5 public meeting on this draft a mere two days after
6 posting outlines of districts is unacceptable.

7 Speakers of this community repeatedly
8 called on this body to offer at least one or two
9 weeks to examine drafts. The General Assembly has
10 had months to create districts which comply with
11 federal and state law and the constitution. If this
12 committee seeks to genuinely bring sunshine into this
13 process, it is inappropriate to give the public only
14 a few days to examine the map before voting.

15 Further calling into question their
16 plan to open up the process is the failure to release
17 full demographic data and other explanatory
18 information which would allow the public to interpret
19 the map.

20 We're heartened by the Chairman's
21 announcement that the resolution will be released
22 soon, but we question why the delay. ICPR hopes that
23 today's hearing and Tuesday's joint hearing with the
24 House Redistricting Committee will be legitimate

1 opportunities for you as lawmakers to give serious
2 consideration to comments offered.

3 Of course, time remains for the
4 Committee to hold additional public hearings and
5 adjust the draft in accordance with this feedback.

6 In addition, ICPR knows that General
7 Assembly has yet to release the draft of
8 Congressional districts for the public to review and
9 offer changes. This, too, is unacceptable. Ten
10 years ago, the General Assembly gave great deference
11 to the Congressional Delegation in the drawing of its
12 own districts. It is regrettable that history seems
13 to be repeating itself as published reports have
14 indicated that Illinois Democratic Congressmen are
15 intimately involved with the map drawing process this
16 time around and that the public has not been invited
17 to sit in the audience, let alone the table.

18 In the spirit of transparency, which
19 this Committee is doing great, ICPR calls on the
20 General Assembly to release the district and summary
21 language and then hold another set of public hearings
22 at least a week after the posting of that
23 information.

24 ICPR remains concerned that in this

1 process, partisan interests have the ability -- this
2 is the foremost reason why sunshine in redistricting
3 is needed.

4 While we are heartened by many of the
5 earlier steps this committee has taken to make the
6 public feel included, we know you can do better than
7 offering an unexplained map and two premature
8 hearings. We look forward to this Committee taking
9 additional steps to address these short-comings.

10 Thank you.

11 MARY SCHAAFSMA: Good afternoon. My name is
12 Mary Schaafsma and I'm with the League of Women
13 Voters of Illinois. We're a statewide non-partisan
14 organization representing 4,000 members around the
15 state.

16 I want to thank you for the
17 opportunity to comment on the Senate map. I won't
18 repeat some of the things that you've already heard
19 from our colleagues at the Illinois Campaign for
20 Political Reform and Protestants for the Common Good,
21 CHANGE Illinois! And I am gratified to hear that in
22 the spirit of transparency, we will be getting
23 additional data, hopefully as soon as tomorrow, to
24 help us evaluate the contours of the maps, the

1 demographics that went into it, the considerations
2 that you took when you drew the map, including
3 municipal boundaries and communities of interest.

4 And it is to that issue of communities
5 of interest that I would like to just direct my
6 comments for briefly.

7 This Committee heard from the
8 president of the League of Women Voters of
9 Palos/Orland Park at a hearing at Governors State
10 University about a community of interest issue that
11 is of concern to hers.

12 She is in a district that begins in
13 Chicago and ends in Orland Park. And the thing that
14 connects it is about a mile-wide strip of land. And
15 not only from our -- the first blush and our first
16 look at the map does, it looks like not only does
17 that map extend even more egregiously in that
18 direction, we note that there are two other districts
19 where we think the community of interest impact needs
20 to be taken into account.

21 There's the 17th and the 40th
22 Districts. Obviously, absent any more specific data
23 than that which was on the Web site, we can't detail
24 it greater. But, as you know -- I think that you've

1 heard it in testimony before -- that the Brennen
2 Center considers a community of interest "a group of
3 people concerned in a geographic area who share
4 similar interests and priorities, whether social
5 cultural, ethnic, economic, religious or political."

6 The two districts that I referenced,
7 by some estimates, at least one of them runs 30 miles
8 long. It leads us into the near suburbs and also
9 includes rural communities. Two communities of
10 interest that don't share issues in common with
11 Chicago. For example, education and transportation.

12 I can only imagine the challenge to
13 the Legislature that represents a district of this
14 nature. And as you continue to refine these
15 districts, to take that into account as to how a
16 Legislature could meet the needs of three apparently
17 despite interest groups and representation in
18 Springfield.

19 Thank you and I wish you all the best
20 in the next few days as you continue to refine this
21 proposal and we look forward to commenting on that
22 proposal in the end.

23 CHAIRPERSON RAOUL: Any questions of any of
24 these witnesses?

1 (No response.)

2 Being none, thank you for your
3 testimony.

4 Are there any witnesses that filled
5 out a witness slip which you can testify?

6 (No response.)

7 There being none -- okay. Tomorrow,
8 as mentioned before, the House of Representatives
9 will be having a hearing here in the Bilandic
10 Building, this very room at 2:00 o'clock.

11 In addition, on Tuesday in Springfield
12 at 9:00 a.m., the capitol, we will have an additional
13 joint hearing with the House of Representatives. For
14 those of you all who need more time to look at the
15 map, we will be having a hearing Tuesday. And for
16 those of you all who cannot make it to Springfield,
17 you can watch it via Internet by logging onto
18 www.ilga.gov.

19 In addition, as mentioned earlier,
20 there will be a resolution file with a narrative
21 explaining the district boundaries on tomorrow. And
22 that will be available both on the www.ilga.gov Web
23 site as well as www.ilsenateredistricting.com.

24 With there being no further business

1 for the Redistricting Committee, the Senate
2 Redistricting Committee is -- there was an issue with
3 regards to the transcripts. It should be clear that
4 there have been communication between staff with
5 regards to the transcript -- these transcripts --
6 Kankakee, Peoria, Cicero, Elmhurst, Carbondale,
7 Macomb, Streamwood and the West Side of Chicago --
8 were submitted to the public and staff on May 11th.
9 Suggested change for Yorkville and University Park
10 were sent to staff on May 12th and staff received
11 input and approval for all suggested changes, both
12 Democrat and Republic, by May 12th.

13 And so it is our intent to approve
14 these transcripts on Tuesday in order for us to make
15 them available for the public to see.

16 There being no further business --

17 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON RIGHTER: Mr. Chairman,
18 if I might on that issue, the subject of the motion
19 is the transcripts themselves. The -- those
20 transcripts have not been provided to our staff
21 before today, the transcripts. Suggested changes
22 have been provided, but verification that the changes
23 have been made within the transcripts has not been
24 provided to our staff before today.

1 CHAIRPERSON RAOUL: Again, it is our intent to
2 take upon the transcripts and to vote them however
3 you want to vote on Tuesday in order for the public
4 to have access to the transcripts.

5 The Committee on Redistricting is
6 hereby adjourned.

7 (Which were all the
8 proceedings had.)

9

10 ***The transcript produced will be the property of
11 the Illinois State and will be made available to the
12 public through the Illinois General Assembly Website
13 after approval by the members of the Illinois State
14 Senate Redistricting Committee. Any reproduction or
15 redistribution of this material in electronic or
16 written form is expressly prohibited by law.***

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS:
2 COUNTY OF COOK)

3

4 Amy M. Spee, being first duly sworn on oath,
5 says that she is a Certified Shorthand Reporter, that
6 she reported in shorthand the proceedings given at
7 the taking of said public hearing, and that the
8 foregoing is a true and correct transcript of her
9 shorthand notes so taken as aforesaid and contains
10 all the proceedings given at said public hearing.

11

12

13

14

15

Certified Shorthand Reporter
License No. 084-004559

16

17

18

Subscribed and sworn to before
me this ____ day of _____
2011.

19

20

21

Notary Public

22

23

24